I claim:

1. A method of executing method steps, which comprises:

checking whether an output mode is switched on; and

producing an output signal in a method step and outputting the output signal only if the output mode is switched on.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method steps are divided into modules, and the method comprises changing from one module to another module during the execution of the method steps, and wherein the output signal comprises an identifier indicating in which module the output signal was produced.

3. The method according to claim 1, which comprises executing the method steps in a plurality of devices, and generating the output signal with an identifier indicating the device in which the output signal was produced.

A3> 4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method steps are stored in a storage device, and the method comprises reading out the method steps from the storage device and executed the method steps, and wherein the output signal comprises an identifier indicating where the method step is stored that produced the output signal.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the output signal comprises an identifier indicating in which method step the output signal was produced.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the output mode is one of a plurality of output modes, and the method comprises checking which output mode is set, and wherein the output signal comprises an identifier indicating to which output mode the output signal belongs, and wherein only the output signals belonging to the set output mode are outputted.

7. The method according to claim 1, which comprises outputting the output signal via an output unit as a signal selected from the group consisting of optical and acoustic signals.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the output signal is stored in a storage device, together with an indication of a time at which the output signal was stored.

9. A device for executing method steps, which comprises a control apparatus producing an output signal, said control apparatus being configured to check whether an output mode is switched on, and to output the output signal if the output mode is switched on.

10. The device according to claim 9, wherein said control apparatus is a first control apparatus and comprising a second control apparatus, and wherein one of said first and second control apparatus produces the output signal, and said first or second control apparatus outputs the output signal if an output mode is switched on, and the output signal comprises an identifier indicating whether the output signal was produced by said first or second control apparatus.

11. The device according to claim 9, wherein the output signal includes an identifier indicating at which method step the output signal was produced.

12. The device according to claim 10, wherein at least one of said first and second control apparatus executes method steps in the form of program modules, and the output signal comprises an identifier indicating the module in which the output signal was produced.

13. The device according to claim 10, which further comprises a storage device storing the method steps;

and wherein at least one of said first and second control apparatus is configured to read out the method steps for the execution from the storage device; and

wherein the output signal comprises an identifier indicating a location at which the method steps are stored in said stroage device.

A4> 14. The device according to claim 13, wherein the location is identified in said stroage device via a memory address.

15. The device according to claim 13, wherein the location is identified in said stroage device via a data filename.

16. The device according to claim 9, which further comprises input means configured to enable selective switching on and switching off of the output mode even during the execution of the method steps.